

THROWING UP GREAT DAM OF GATUN

Biggest Single Job of Moving Material Ever Taken Up by Man—Program for 1909, There and at Culebra—Panama Gratters.

By FREDERICK J. HASKIN.

(Copyright, 1908, by Frederick J. Haskin.) Washington, Nov. 12.—The plans for prosecuting the work of digging the Panama canal during the next fiscal year have been completed. Colonel Goethals and some of his associates have been in the states for several weeks, during which time the plans were prepared and submitted to the secretary of war. They call for the expenditure of \$35,000,000 during the year, as compared with \$27,000,000 this year. The work in Culebra cut is being pressed forward, and the Gatun dam is to rise upward. Have you looked at the seeming chaos existing when the foundations of the Gatun dam are being laid, and then watched the great building take shape with the passing weeks? The foundations at Panama have been laid. The upbuilding work on the superstructure has begun, and what seemed to be chaos is being converted into system that even the unpracticed eye can understand.

Heretofore the Gatun dam existed only in the minds of those great engineers who conceived it. The traveler across the isthmus was puzzled to know how they would impound the waters of the Chagres on the site where the dam is to be built. It required the explanations of the engineers to make it clear. The work hitherto done was largely preliminary. Of course the spillway was excavated, and the lock cut through the hill, but they meant nothing to the passing traveler. Now, however, the preliminaries have been completed, the last imaginable doubt has been removed by experiments of unprecedented exhaustiveness, and hereafter he who passes Gatun on the Panama railroad may see a mountain in the making—a mountain of imperious mud a mile and a quarter long and a half mile wide at the base. That is the Gatun dam, a dam strong enough to withstand double the pressure that will be brought against it, and which earthquakes such as has occurred in Panama within historical times, it will be a dam so big as to make the pyramid of Cheops look like a pigmy undertaking, so far as cubic contents are concerned.

The beginning of the work of upbuilding the Gatun dam during the next dry season will be the appointment of the rank and file on the isthmus. It was their ambition to make 4,000,000 yards of dirt in one month. "Four million a month" was their slogan for the coming dry season. But the work on the Gatun dam will require the transfer of a considerable number of the excavating force to that point, so that the 3,500,000 cubic yard record established last March will remain the highest record for Panama—and that means the highest record for the whole world. Nowhere else on earth in all its history has there been as much material moved in a single month on a single job as was moved at Panama last March.

Perfect Organization Effectuated. But while the "four million a month" notch will never be reached, and even the record of last March may never be equaled again, there will be no let-up in the enthusiasm of the workers nor in the results accomplished. During the present rainy season Colonel Goethals has completely reorganized his force. Every piece of dead timber in the old organization has been eliminated, and every man on the isthmus has been placed where he will accomplish the maximum of results. The reorganization makes a compact working unit, one that has never before been possible, and there will be a greater display of team work than ever before. Thereafter the work will be done by the standard of things accomplished. It is expected that the next dry season will surpass the record of the last one. It will not show in the amount of material excavated, but in the degree that Gatun dam nears completion. The first session of the congress

selected last week will be called upon to make the largest appropriation in the history of the canal. So well is the work progressing that the canal officials are getting ready for the purchase of the big lock gates year after next. Upon the canal at the mouth of the upper end of the Gatun and Pedro Miguel locks will rest the tremendous burden of holding in check the waters of the big Gatun dam, with its 54 square miles of water area. They must be big enough and strong enough to resist the ramming force of a battleship or a giant cargo boat, in case they were accidentally struck by such a vessel. Imagine a heavy railroad bridge, braced up with sheet steel so as to make it watertight, being wheeled back and forth across the mouth of these locks, and you will be getting a layman's idea of how they propose to restrain the water of Gatun, and forcing its way out through the locks, and at the same time to prevent the locks being put out of commission through possible ramming by ships.

The building of the locks at Gatun, Pedro Miguel and Miraflores will be a feature of the work for the next year. Immense preparations have been made for this work. It will require the largest concrete mixing plant in the world. Also a warehouse with a storage capacity of 100,000 barrels of cement. A special receiving dock 500 feet long will be built, and the materials will be hoisted up the canal to Gatun from Cristobal, a distance of some seven miles. In order that the work may go on night and day, a big lighting plant is being installed at the works, which provides for 1,000 lights on the works.

Outing Down Culebra. When things begin to go down at Gatun they will also begin to go down more rapidly at Culebra cut. At present the cut is 430 feet wide. The deeper it goes the narrower it becomes. The shoals are now down to a point where it is approximately 320 feet wide, at a point approximately 95 feet below the surface, the cut will be narrowed 50 feet, by a horizontal offset of 45 feet on either side. The remaining 55 feet of the cut will be approximately 200 feet wide. Therefore, the deeper down the work is carried, the more rapidly it will seem to proceed. Heretofore the Americans have gone but little below the level of the French. But they have dug the whole cut down to that point, and hereafter they will be digging below the level of the French. The foundations of the Gatun dam cut will be one notch nearer the bottom. Approximately half of the material had been taken out on June 1. It represents but little more than one-fourth of the depth of the cut.

The steam shovel men of the isthmus are showing no signs of letting up in the matter of record-breaking. Months ago they succeeded in making the world's record. But even those records were not allowed to stand. They were wiped off the slate, so far as individual shovels were concerned, during July. One shovel excavated 64,967 cubic yards of material in the 26 working days of the month, at an average of 2,498 cubic yards a day. It is thought this is a record which will stand for many years to come, though past and present records are being absolutely safe on the isthmus.

Work on the Dredges. With the dredges things are slightly different. While they have measured up to the best standards of engineering performance in the United States, there is not the opportunity for record-breaking with a big dredge that there is with a steam shovel. The latest arrival is a 20-inch suction dredge on the isthmus, in addition to the big sea-going dredge. The latest arrival is a "Sandpiper." It is built to dredge to a depth of 40 feet. It has a 20-inch centrifugal pump, driven by a 10-horsepower engine, fed by two Scotch marine boilers, in which crude oil is used for fuel. It takes 100 barrels of oil every 24 hours to run this dredge. When all the dredge equipment is brought into play the monthly output of material will be not far from 1,500,000 cubic yards.

On the whole, the work on the canal for the next year promises to be even more satisfactory than that which has been done during the present year—satisfactory as that has been. Every nail in Christendom has been held in place watching Uncle Sam dig the canal. He has outdone every other nation almost two to one.

Workers in States Beaten. It is a fortunate thing for the contractors of the United States that this canal-digging machine is not at work here at home. It would set at low a mark for per unit cost, and so high a mark for general efficiency, that the government might be persuaded to do up its river and harbor work itself. No accurate estimate has yet been made of the relative cost of work on the isthmus and in the states, but all observers seem to agree that when a sufficient allowance is made for the difference in conditions at home and on the isthmus, the workers at home. And this in spite of the fact that the majority of the laborers are West Indian negroes untrained to construction work, and unaccustomed to any sort of work at all.

Sidestepping Panama Graft. The Panamanian government is again raising a kick against the canal commissary. The son of President Obaldia has been in Washington protesting against the commissary being allowed to continue its sale of supplies to the Americans on the isthmus. He says the Americans are all wealthy and are able to pay the prices the Panamanian merchants would charge them for supplies. But this is not a fact. Although the Americans on the isthmus get good wages they are not wealthy, and they would be poverty stricken if they had to buy their supplies from the native Panamanian merchants. If one knows how to drive a bargain with a Panamanian Chinaman he is likely to do very well. But the commissary would bleed him every time. It was a knowledge of this that led to the establishment of a commissary in the isthmus, and it will continue this sort of commissary.

MISS KENT MAY LEAVE COMPANY

Miss Louise Kent, who for two seasons and a half has been one of the most popular, if not the most popular member of the Baker stock company, has received an offer to join the Valencia stock company of San Francisco, and will probably accept. If she does, Miss Kent will leave Portland November 21 and open with the Valencia company on November 23.

"I have received an offer to join a second lead with the Valencia company," said Miss Kent. "I don't know whether to take it or not. I have grown so fond of Portland and of Portland people that it is almost too much of a wrench for me to leave here, but I feel that the San Francisco offer both from the standpoint of salary and of possibilities for future advancement is so good that I ought not to refuse it. I cannot decide until tonight or tomorrow, however."

At the same time that Miss Kent received the San Francisco offer she received another to become leading woman for the McClay stock company of Tacoma. She is not considering this second offer, however.

Whether Miss Kent can leave without having trouble with the Baker management over her contract is doubtful. It is known that Mr. Baker is unwilling that she shall go, but a clause in the contract provides that it can be annulled with the consent of both parties.

New Oregon Postmaster.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Washington, Nov. 12.—Anions H. Potter has been appointed postmaster at Klondike, Sherman county, Oregon.

MISSING GIRL LOVED HER PASTOR

Letter from Edna Clark to Her Chum Reveals a Callov Creature's First Infatuation—Admits Meetings in Study.

(United Press Lined Wire.)

San Francisco, Nov. 12.—Documentary evidence tending to support the accusations of Edna Reynolds of Oakland that Rev. Payson Young, rector of the Episcopal church of St. Mary the Virgin, bore more than priestly relations with Edna Clark, the missing 18-year-old art student, is in the hands of the ecclesiastical court of inquiry. As if from the grave come the written confessions of love by the missing girl to her friend and confidante.

A letter written by Edna Clark, dated October 21, telling of her meeting with her priested admirer and of her love for him, is corroborated by Rev. W. B. Clark of Redwood City, whom she mentions as having met with her "sweet heart" the day before.

Dr. Clark said he was introduced to Edna Clark by Father Young, the rector's study on the day mentioned. The letter brought forward by Edna Reynolds, in which Miss Clark tells her love for Father Young, reads in part:

"Dearest Ted—Mamma asked me yesterday afternoon if I were particularly happy. 'Oh yes,' I answered. It's the truth, too, for I saw a particular friend of mine yesterday noon and have hopes of seeing him on the boat this evening. Haven't I reason to be happy? Yesterday was the first time in eight days that I saw him, and I was becoming so blue that I hardly had a smile for anyone. I am undoubtedly in love with him. And, say, who do you think was with him?"

"No one we know, but another priest, called Father Clark. He looked rather astonished and amused when he heard my name. I don't blame him, do you? He isn't half as nice as my beloved, though—or at least I don't think so. I wish you could meet—some day, Teddie."

Dark curly hair, long nose, blue eyes, typical priest mouth on the order of an Irishman's, so I told him once—rather tall and slender. That's as good a description as I can give of him. Don't think he's handsome, for while he's fairly good looking he would never be styled as beauty."

"He said that some time he wanted me to join the order called the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament. He told him I would when our engagement was announced and I could attend his church."

"The idea of that would not be much confessing of sins when I was there and that it would be mostly a confession of love."

In closing, Edna Clark wrote: "Did I tell you I expect to see my sweet heart on the boat today? You'll excuse my saying so much about him, won't you? One always writes about what is most in one's mind, you know."

The pen picture of the missing girl has given in vivid in its resemblance to Father Young. The features correspond with the description.

Bishop's Court Demands Affidavits.

Rev. David J. Evans, secretary of the ecclesiastical court of inquiry which is examining the charges that have been made against Rev. Payson Young, rector of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, in connection with the disappearance of Edna Clark, announced this morning that there would be no more sessions of the court of inquiry until affidavits had been filed with the court. "No more affidavits or charges will be considered before this board at all," declared Rev. Evans. "We will investigate carefully every charge that is made against Rev. Young, but these charges must be sworn to. Until we receive the affidavits we shall take no action."

OAKLAND POLICE ASKED TO SEEK FOR EDNA CLARK

(United Press Lined Wire.) Oakland, Cal., Nov. 12.—Today for the first time the Oakland police were asked to assist in the search for Edna Clark. A member of the family, whose identity Chief Wilson refused to divulge, asked that the police lend their aid, and 20 days after the girl disappeared from Oakland detectives began their investigation. Why there should have been such long delay in officially notifying the authorities the police do not know. Captain of Detectives Peterson said this morning that this was the first official notification that the girl was missing that his department had received, though he had followed the case in the newspapers.

GALVESTON PLAN IN NEW ENGLAND

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Boston, Mass., Nov. 12.—Beginning this evening and continuing through the next two days a notable conference is to be held in the hall of the Massachusetts Institute of technology to consider plans for civic changes in the cities and towns of Massachusetts. The conference is the first of its kind to be held in New England. The national form of government by commission which was recently adopted by the city of Haverhill, will be one of the foremost topics of discussion. Other subjects to receive attention include municipal playgrounds, the teaching of agriculture and industrial education for small towns.

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